WASATCH STAKE RELIEF SOCIETY

The first Wasatch Stake Relief Society was organized Sept. 3, 1879, under the direction of Eliza R. Snow and Emmeline B. Wells of the Relief Society general presidency. This was not the first Relief Society organization in the valley, however, for Bishop Abram Hatch had established a Relief Society in the Heber Ward ten years earlier in June, 1869.

Margaret Muir was president of the ward Society, with Ann Murdoch and Mary McMullin as counselors. Forty members were enrolled in that first group.

When the stake organization was effected Emma Brown was chosen as president. She served for 19 years, with Sarah Alexander, Mary Daybell, Mary Bronson, Avis N. Bronson, Mary McMullin, Josephine Cluff Jones, Hannah Harbour, Sarah Cummings and Rhoda Ohlwiler as her counselors during that period.

The early pioneering days were difficult for the Relief Society sisters. In addition to establishing their own individual homes they had to go into the homes of others in caring for the poor, nursing the sick and making burial clothing for those who had passed away. To raise funds for their Society they stored wheat that had been gleaned from the fields, sold rags and sold their Sunday eggs.

The second Relief Society president was Annie R. Duke. Her counselors were Elizabeth H. Murdock, Lavisa Alexander and Sarah K. Duke.

In 1910 Johanna E. Jensen was called as stake Relief Society president. Her counselors were Margaret Murdock and Sophia Luke with Carlie Clegg Tidwell as secretary and Mima Broadbent, treasurer.

The next reorganization took place in 1917 when Sophia Luke was called as president. Clara Clyde, Mima Broadbent and Emma Fortie were her counselors during the three years that she served.

Mima Broadbent was sustained as president in 1920 and chose Clara

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wove hats of straw, but by the time the railroad came in 1899 they "imported" many of their hats from the outside world.

Earlier, however, all the hats were made right in Heber City. To give a seasonal change to the hats they re-trimmed them.

Mrs. Duncan of the Duncan House sold hats to ladies in a store just south of her hotel, and Mrs. Lovisa Alexander had a two-room shop built south of her residence at 65 S. 1st East. Alice Ryan Jones operated a very successful shop known as the Elite Millinery near her home on First North and Third East for many years. She was also a skilled teacher of her art and taught many girls how to make beautiful hats. Annie Jones Smith was also a talented milliner and worked with Mrs. Jones for many years. She would attend the Paris Millinery School each spring to learn the latest fads and fashions. Mrs. J. W. (Effruezenia) Winterrose was also a professional milliner and dressmaker, and operated a shop at 135 S. Main. Mary Bond and Rúby Murdock Gott also made and sold hats.

In 1912 Mrs. William Byrne of Park City opened a millinery shop at 54 N. Main and then later moved to 4 West Center. Her shop prospered and in 1920 she sold it to Vilate McMillan and Frankie Clift. Miss McMillan became sole operator in 1921 and expanded the business to the leading women's specialty shop in Heber. She purchased property at 136 S. Main in 1943 and established her business as Vilates Shop. She still does her own buying, selling, some of the bookkeeping, window trimming and fitting. For many years Mrs. Rachel Giles and Mrs. Mary B. McMullin did the altering for the shop.

Dressmaking was as important as millinery and most of the early milliners were equally skilled as dressmakers. Alice Ryan Jones was particularly noted for her dressmaking and many of the early brides of the county were clothed in her beautiful creations. She trained many of the best seamstresses in Heber.

For years after the settlement of Heber there was no such thing as a "ready-made" dress. Material was at first spun, and then when yardage became available the women sewed dresses from this material. Some who were most deft with the needle and thread went into business. A few of these included Mrs. Amanda Clift, Isabell Jacobs, Emma West, Rachel A. Giles, Mrs. Sue Goodwin Witt, Mrs. Mary Jensen Moulton and her daughters Millie and Josie, Mrs. Susie W. Giles, Mrs. Lizzie Witt, Lizzie Averett, Sarah Smith and Rhoda Ohlwiler.

Putting together a dress in the pre-sewing machine days was quite an art. Each dress required lining, the seams had to be cat-stitched, stiffening had to be inserted in the skirt, the waist had to be boned to insure a good figure and neatness of course was paramount. The trimming was very elaborate.

ard Jones Sr., Joseph Moulton, Robert and William Lindsay, William Rasband and Richard Jones Jr.

Willard Carroll, president of the group in 1877, noted that Church President Brigham Young had directed the formation throughout the Church of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association, and moved that this group become part of this new Church organization. The membership voted unanimously in favor of the merger and the literary society continued its activities through the mutual program.

On December 6, 1895 the Shakespearian Club of Heber was formed with a membership of 26, an honor roll of three and a life-member list of four. The club, which continues today, is the second oldest club for women in Utah. It was organized as an educational and social unit and operates today under the same constitution and by-laws which its founders established.

Mary Willis was chosen as the first president with Lovisa Alexander, vice president and Eliza J. Rasband secretary and treasurer.

In 1898 the club became affiliated with the Utah Federated Clubs for Women, and Mrs. Emma Hatch Wherritt later served as district president of this state federation.

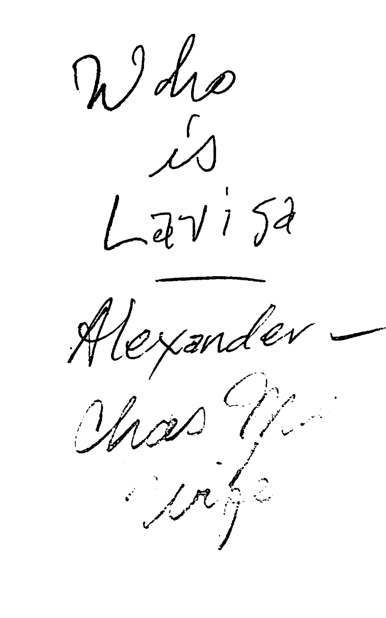
Charter members of the club included Eliza J. Rasband, Mary Willis, Sophia Luke, Minnie A. Cummings, Eva McDonald, Ruth Hatch, Mary Ann Fisher, Mary Glandville, Fedelia Luke, Lovisa Alexander, Fannie Clyde, Sarah Clotworthy, Elizabeth McDonald, Lillian Southworth, Teenie Smithie, Emily Aird, Alice R. Jones and Jane Hatch.

A lodge of the American Order of United Workmen was organized in Heber in the 1890's and included many of the prominent residents. The organization was an insurance lodge which extended through Wyoming, Montana, Idaho and Utah. If a member traveled through another part of the country and needed assistance he could always call on members of the lodge who were pledged to give aid when needed. Wives of the members had an auxiliary organization known as the Degree of Honor.

Members in Heber included Henry M. Aird, John W. Aird, John E. Austin, William Buys, Edward Buys, George Barzee, William Baxter, William Edward Buys, C. H. Bishop, Joseph Campbell, Henry Cluff, J. M. (Dick) Duke, David Fisher, Andrew Fisher, Charles H. Giles, Daniel Griffith, J. D. Harris, G. S. Hayes, James Lindsay, Andrew Lindsay, W. M. Murdock, Thomas Parry, Archie Sellers, Sr., John Southworth, John A. Simpson, Harry A. Sharp, John Turner, Thomas S. Watson, T. H. Watson, Harry F. Watson, William S. Wills, William Wheable, Thomas Wilson, C. H. West, Dr. W. R. Wherritt and William Bowman.

A chapter of the Business and Professional Women's Club was organized in Heber on April 19, 1924 with a large roster of members.

Clara Clawson, membership chairman of the club for Utah, organized


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